

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note that the changes to claims are shown below in clean form for clarity. A marked up version of the amendments is attached.

Please cancel claims 8-10, 12-18, and 22, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue such claims in one or more related applications.

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

C1 *Sub D13* 1. (Two Times Amended) An isolated protein capable of interacting with receptors of the TNF superfamily including the cytoplasmic domain of CD40, said isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence having 70-100% homology to the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a fragment thereof capable of interacting with receptors of the TNF superfamily, including the cytoplasmic domain of CD40.

C2 3. (Two Times Amended) The isolated protein of claim 1 further comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 4.

C3 5. (Two Times Amended) The isolated protein of claim 1 wherein said isolated protein is a fragment, said fragment comprising the amino acids 54-362 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Sub D14 6. (Two Times Amended) The isolated protein claim 1 wherein said isolated protein is a fragment comprising the amino acids 274-362 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

af 20. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a CD40-related disease, said pharmaceutical composition comprising:

at least one compound produced by interacting the isolated protein of claim 1 and/or said fragment thereof with other protein components of the CD40 related pathway, and detecting the at least one compound's effect on said interaction; and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier material.

Please add the following new claims:

CS 23. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, further comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

24. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 5 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier material.

25. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 6 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier material.